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## We Are ... Marshall, November 20, 2009

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# WE ARE... MARSHALL®

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • NOVEMBER 20, 2009

## Med School Receives Funding for Five Projects

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded five grants totaling \$3 million to faculty members at Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. The grants, awarded competitively through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will support biomedical research and workforce development programs.

Four of the funded projects are associated with the West Virginia-IDEA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (WV-INBRE).

According to Dr. Gary Rankin, chairman of the university's Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Toxicology and WV-INBRE principal investigator, the awards will further the network's efforts to build biomedical research infrastructure, develop research programs at the state's undergraduate institutions, provide student research opportunities and train the state's high-tech work force.

"These awards will allow more students and faculty members from the state's undergraduate institutions, as well as high school science educators, to participate in biomedical research projects and gain valuable skills and experience," Rankin said. "In addition, two new research projects have been funded that will tackle problems in cancer and cardiovascular disease that could benefit West

Virginians and all individuals. We are excited about the opportunities these awards have created and are grateful to our congressional delegation for their continuing support of research at Marshall."

The WV-INBRE projects include:

### Identification of Potential Biomarkers for Cardiovascular Disease

A grant of \$529,000 will fund a project led by Dr. Nalini Santanam, associate professor of pharmacology, to discover biomarkers that could help identify people predisposed to heart disease treatment. Dr. Ken Cushman of West Liberty University is a collaborator on the project.

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## Diane Williams Named Employee of the Month

Diane Williams, Coordinator of College H.E.L.P. program, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for October, according to Amber Bentley, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee for more than 19 years, she was nominated by Lynne Weston, Director of H.E.L.P., Renna Moore, Administrative Assistant, and Diana Porter, H.E.L.P. Business Manager.

Williams received high accolades from the nominators for her versatility, dedication to her duties and to the students and her willingness to tackle any job, no matter how small.

In her nomination Weston wrote, "Her job entails



Diane Williams (right) receives her Employee of the Month award from President Kopp.

supervising at least 35 graduate assistants as well as 200 college students and various other personnel...but she involves herself in all aspects of H.E.L.P. She would never say, "That is not my job." She is willing to do the menial jobs...such as trips for supplies, fixing anything that doesn't work and even printing the H.E.L.P. newsletter.

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## Graduate Humanities to Celebrate 30th Anniversary

The Marshall University Graduate Humanities program is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a reception and the release of a Humanities anthology, *Constellations*, on Dec. 11 on the South Charleston campus.

The public is invited to join the celebration at 7 p.m. in the Marshall University Graduate College Library. Copies of *Constellations* will be available and students in Mark Moore's fall collage seminar will be exhibiting their work.

"The Graduate Humanities Program is an interdisciplinary program that brings together faculty and students from a variety of backgrounds to collaboratively explore the intersection of the arts, culture, literature, and history within an open, exploratory, and experimental graduate-level educational environment," Dr. Luke Eric Lassiter, program director, said.

Since 1980, when the program graduated its first student, 134 people have earned a M.A. in Humanities. To commemorate the creative and scholarly work by students and faculty over the past 30 years, graduate student Katie Santiago took on the task of compiling a volume showcasing their work. The result is *Constellations*, a 150-page anthology which is being printed by the University of Nebraska Press and which will be introduced at the Dec. 11 reception.

"I can attest that it is a fitting tribute to the diverse perspectives of our program's students and faculty," said

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## College of Fine Arts Dean Recognized by Regional Academic Art Group

Don Van Horn, dean of the College of Fine Arts since 1995, received the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC) Presidential Award for Exemplary Achievement at the organization's annual conference Oct. 24.



Don Van Horn

"I am humbled by the President's Award from SECAC," Van Horn said. "When I served as president, I was privileged to make a number of those awards myself, and I am not sure I belong in the same league as those I was fortunate enough to be able to recognize. Nonetheless, it is an honor to have been presented the award and it comes from an organization that serves the visual arts in higher education, which is an important cause."

The award, considered the organization's most prestigious, reflects Van Horn's personal and professional development, his contributions to his university and local communities as well as long-standing service to SECAC. According to officials of the organization, Van Horn's many contributions include his tenure as editor of the SECAC Review, his role as conference chair in 2007, editing an issue of the *Southeastern College Art Conference Review*, his service as the chair of the artist fellowship committee, his commitment to moving SECAC to a year-

### Faculty, Staff, Students to Receive Discount at West Virginia Symphony

The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra is offering Marshall students, faculty and staff (both full and part-time) a 50% discount on the remaining concerts in their 2009-2010 season of Symphonic and Pops Series performances.

Eligible performances include:

December 11-12 – Home for the Holidays

January 22-23 – Classical Majesty, Corey Cerovsek, violinist

February 12-13 – A Night On Broadway, Mark McVey, soloist

March 5-6 – Virtuosity Unleashed! Ilya Kaler, violinist

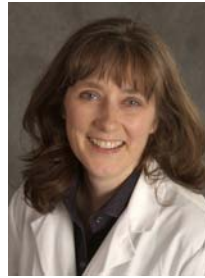
March 19-20 – Sousa at the Symphony with Keith Brion, guest conductor

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round organization, and his service as first vice president and president from 2004 to 2008.

Van Horn's commitment to the arts is well known in West Virginia and particularly Huntington, where he was named the recipient of The Herald-Dispatch Award for the Arts in 2006 for his "steady vision and vibrant outreach with the community." Van Horn was nominated for that award by a wide breadth of community members thanking him for his tireless work on campus and with the Huntington Museum of Art, the Snowshoe Institute for the Arts, the Governor's School for the Arts, the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center and other endeavors.

## Wehner Appointed Associate Dean of Med School



Dr. Paulette Wehner

Paulette S. Wehner, M.D., has been named associate dean for graduate medical education at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

As associate dean, Wehner will coordinate and oversee Marshall's residency and fellowship training programs in cardiology, endocrinology, family medicine, internal medicine, medicine/pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, orthopedic surgery, pediatrics, pulmonary medicine and surgery.

"Dr. Wehner is one of our most valued faculty members," Dean Charles H. McKown Jr., M.D., said in announcing the appointment. "Her strong leadership over the past 12 years as director of Marshall's cardiovascular residency training program – the only one within 120 miles of Huntington – has assured outstanding preparation for cardiologists in training and contributed greatly to Marshall's ability to provide what we consider to be the best comprehensive cardiology services in our expanded region."

Wehner, who will continue as program director for Marshall's cardiovascular fellowship, is director of the cardiac catheterization laboratory at Cabell Huntington Hospital and medical director of the hospital's cardiac rehabilitation program. She also is medical director of the Women's Heart Institute at St. Mary's Medical Center. An active researcher, she is principal site investigator at St. Mary's for the VIRGO trial, a study being conducted in conjunction with Yale University to evaluate heart attacks in young women.

Since joining the Marshall faculty in 1995, Wehner has repeatedly received awards from medical students for her teaching, and she was named "Outstanding Program Director" in 2001. She is a member of the medical honorary society Alpha Omega Alpha, as well as a fellow of the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Physicians, and the American College of Chest Physicians. She has been a member of Marshall's Academy of Medical Educators since its inception in 2004.

The Kingwood native is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and earned her medical degree at Marshall, where she also did her residency and fellowship training.

She was the primary author of the chapter on heart disease and cardiovascular problems for an international reference guide for disability evaluation, the AMA's "Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Sixth Edition."

Wehner is one of two West Virginia physicians honored in the Local Legends project of the National Library of Medicine in 2005.

## WE ARE...MARSHALL®



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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Dec. 11, 2009. Deadline is Dec. 4. Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to [pdickson@marshall.edu](mailto:pdickson@marshall.edu).



## Profile: Margaret McFarland

*A series on interesting Marshall University people.*



Margaret McFarland

She bubbles over with enthusiasm, a bundle of energy who's passionate about her work, her life and helping make life better and healthier for others.

And Margaret McFarland believes in practicing what she preaches. As the PEIA Pathway to Wellness Coordinator for the Medical School she's on a mission to make people aware of healthy choices and the rewards of making sometimes just small lifestyle changes.

McFarland, who is a research assistant in the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology, has been her worksite coordinator for the past three years, and in fact her work and dedication was just recognized last month when she was named the Western Worksite Coordinator of the Year at the annual WV PEIA Worksite Coordinator meeting in Beckley.

Pathways to Wellness, she explains, is a program that allows employees at a work site to take advantage of educational and behavioral change programs ranging from health screenings to "Lunch & Learns" to physical activity programs. "Over the past dozen years, we've done most of the programs that have been offered. There have been walking, nutrition and exercise programs in addition to ones like Chug-a-Jug, where participants were given a 16-ounce jug and encouraged to drink water from it four times a day as a substitute for soda, coffee or other liquids," she says. "Starting this month we're doing 'Weigh to Go,' which aims to help people keep from gaining more than three pounds over the holiday season. The average gain is seven pounds so we're giving tips and encouraging people to ward off that extra weight gain."

There are more than 870 work sites in the state that PEIA sponsors and the medical school site is one of the larger ones, she says. "There are some great programs available through the state, and I really wish more people knew about them and even better, took advantage of them. For example, if you're overweight, they will pay for a gym membership for at least one year if you commit to go at least twice a week. As health insurers look at it, it's better to nip conditions such as diabetes in the bud before they develop, so there's a big push for weight control and exercise."

Besides the obvious health benefits of staying fit, there're even some cash incentives of which people may not be aware. "We're encouraged to offer health screenings once a year where people can get a series of tests including a body mass index, glucose level, blood pressure, and a cholesterol panel. The medical school site offers these screenings annually in June and the Huntington campus offers them in October. People fall into three categories, green, yellow or red. If you're in the green zone, your test results are good and you'll be given a check for \$50. The yellow zone means the tests are generally good with some improvement to be made and you'll receive \$25. The red zone carries no monetary award and it means there is work to be done. The reward system is a good incentive to do healthful things."

And it's very possible to go from the red to the green zone, she says. Sometimes it's just a matter of paying attention to small things. "I'm no super nut on health but

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## Diane Williams

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ter. If a student needs a ride to the doctor or to the airport, she willingly agrees to help out. As the director of H.E.L.P., I know that she is always there to help me in any capacity needed. She not only helps but does an excellent job in all that she endeavors. The H.E.L.P. program has received many blessings through the years and Diane Williams is certainly one of them. She has contributed to our vision and mission in many different ways."

Moore noted that Williams is often found in the office well before and after normal working hours. "Among her peers, Diane is recognized as the consummate professional. She not only does her job to the best of her ability but goes above and beyond what is expected of her. Diane counsels over 200 students a semester and is on the phone with parents and professors countless hours resolving problems and addressing personal concerns. She is the well-qualified mediator that most students would want to speak on their behalf...Diane is extraordinarily gifted with talent and intelligence. She is very knowledgeable and blessed with a compassionate spirit."

Porter characterizes Williams as a self-starter who willingly adds duties and takes on more responsibilities each year. In addition to matching 200 students with 45 tutors each semester Porter says she manages a myriad of related duties including test scheduling, complaints, rapport with professors, and adjustments of tutoring hours. "Diane is virtually indispensable to the H.E.L.P. program. Even unasked she thinks of what needs to be done and the next thing you know, it is a *fait accompli*." No task is too small for Williams to take on, according to Porter. "She repairs whatever is broken in the building—copiers, computers, staplers, paper cutters—even the water fountain! She gets functions organized and works to make sure that they go according to plan...What would we do without Diane Williams? I do not know and I hope we do not have to find out."

Williams was presented with a plaque and a check for \$100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.

## 'Rat Pack' Comes to Keith-Albee Nov. 30

They were legends in their own time, a combination of hip humor and the coolest music of their era, so famous they didn't need last names to identify them. Now, just in time for the holidays, Frank, Dean, Sammy and Joey are coming to town at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. in the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center.

**RAT PACK IS BACK!** *Here for the Holidays* recreates one of the famous "Summit at the Sands" nights when Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. and Joey Bishop held court at the famed casino. Written by Sandy Hackett, son of comedian Buddy Hackett, the show features recreated vocals, stage antics and humor along with a 12-piece orchestra.

"This is as close as anyone has come to capturing the feeling of the real thing," said the Las Vegas Sun. Holiday hits include "Baby it's Cold Outside," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm," and many more.

Audience members will have an opportunity to help out a local food pantry. A food donation bin for the Cridlin Pantry has been set up in the theatre entry in which donations can be placed.

Tickets may be purchased at the Marshall Artists Series box office, which is located in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse, Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. To order, or for additional information, call ext. 66657 or (304) 523-5757. Tickets may also be purchased online at [www.marshallartistsseries.org](http://www.marshallartistsseries.org).

## Margaret McFarland

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I watch what I eat and I try to pay attention to what's out there and act on it. At work I always take the stairs unless I'm carrying equipment and since we live near Ritter Park I walk our dog there every day, no excuses. Our dog, Louie, with his boundless energy, is a real motivator. He makes me get out and walk whether I want to or not. I guess I just don't like to sit too much. I like to be active, to move around a lot."

Then there are the classes offered by the Marshall fitness center. McFarland is an eager participant. "We have the fitness center right across the street from our new med school site so I've taken spinning, yoga and strength conditioning, for example. For a while I was even able to buddy up and work with personal trainers. Now that was an experience!" These days she makes the short walk to the new state-of-the-art fitness center to take advantage of their series of lunch-hour classes. And she has a sense of humor about her participation. "I'm often the oldest person in the class, but I go anyway. This is what I like to do; I love learning something new."

A native of Detroit and a graduate of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, she actually ended up in Huntington and at Marshall because she didn't like Michigan's cold weather. After graduation, she headed for Key West, Fla., a favorite spring break hangout full of fond memories of sun and fun. "I just wanted to go somewhere warm and sunny for a while." She not only found her ideal climate but her husband, Mike, who is from Huntington. "We agreed to house-sit for Mike's parents while his father was on a job assignment in India and during that time a job came up for me in the med school at Marshall and we never left."

That was in 1981 and although her job duties have changed over the years, since she no longer works in only one lab, some of her duties are still basically the same. Admittedly, she's kind of a mother hen. "There are a couple of us here who fit that mold," she says. "We see that things work smoothly. I basically work in different areas, maintaining equipment, helping with papers, doing Photoshop work, prepping labs. As research assistants we try to take care of whatever needs to be done."

McFarland is passionate about recycling—it's her pet project. She's been doing it for years and wishes others would, too. Long before it was popular to be "green" she was toting her own bags to stores and sorting recyclables both at home and at work. She would like to see it become a way of life for everyone. "I actually started as a teenager because my family recycled, which was new back then. It's incredible to see how much waste is generated through cardboard boxes, papers, plastics and cans. It's the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we have to change. When we promoted Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October our Pathways program gave away pink cloth grocery bags to encourage reuse. We now have divided bins in the lobby of our building, which is encouraging, and Dr. Rick Abel comes from main campus and picks up all our cardboard and paper for us. We've come a long way, but we have a long way to go."

The McFarland family, which includes children Nick, a third year cadet at Virginia Military Institute, and Audrey, a ninth grader at Huntington High School, loves to travel near and far. She's proud of her son, majoring in international studies and Arabic, who just ran his first marathon in Washington, D.C., and her daughter, who challenges herself academically as well as physically by running cross country and track for Huntington High.

Diversity is important to her and that's a big plus working at the medical school she explains. "We have people who come from all over the world and learning about the different cultures and the customs is so exciting. I love that part of my job, just getting to meet all these interesting people."

An avid reader, at home she can often be found with a book in her hand. That is, after walking the dog, cooking up a nutritious dinner, and getting in that all-important daily exercise.

An unabashed optimist, she brims with enthusiasm for life in general. "Every day is an adventure for me. I look forward to every new day when I wake up!"

## Med School

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### Prevention of Kidney Damage Caused By Anticancer Drug

Dr. Monica Valentovic, professor of pharmacology, physiology and toxicology, will use a \$651,000 award to further her lab's efforts to evaluate methods for reducing the side effects of the widely used cancer chemotherapy drug cisplatin.

### Summer Research Experiences for Students and Science Educators

A two-year \$751,000 grant is supporting summer research interns at Marshall, West Virginia University (WVU) and the state's undergraduate institutions.

### Research Workforce Development and Dissemination

In a complementary effort to encourage students to choose a career in biomedical research, a \$590,000 grant will fund a two-year program to pay undergraduate students and high school science teachers to work on WV-INBRE-funded projects in campus labs.

The fifth grant, for a project called "**Transcription Factors in Cancer**," supplements existing funding for Marshall's NIH-funded Center of Biomedical Research Excellence, which emphasizes research related to melanoma, reproductive/endocrine cancers and the role of nutrition in cancer. The \$490,000 award will be used to help set up a network between Marshall and West Virginia University's Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center to help researchers study the genetic makeup of donated tumor material.

Dr. Richard Niles, chairman of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, is the principal investigator.

"The goal of the cancer genomics network is to use the power of new sequencing technology to uncover changes in the composition or expression of genes that might predict the future behavior of a particular tumor, or predict the tumor's susceptibility to specific types of therapy," Niles said. "These technologies are part of the development of personalized medicine and I am excited that we will be able to contribute to these advancements here in the state of West Virginia."

## Graduate Humanities

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Lassiter. "Indeed the collection of articles and essays aptly reflects the varied interdisciplinary perspectives and approaches that have long made our program one of the most distinctive in the region."

For more information about the Graduate Humanities Program or the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration call ext. 61923 or 62022 or e-mail [lassiter@marshall.edu](mailto:lassiter@marshall.edu).

## West Virginia Symphony

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April 16-17 – Ode to Joy, Beethoven's Ninth

April 30 – May 1 – Irish Delight, Eileen Ivers, Celtic fiddle

Tickets may be purchased in person with a Marshall ID at the Clay Center box office or by calling 304-561-3570 and providing a valid Marshall e-mail address during the order.